



## COUNTY OF PRINCE WILLIAM

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April 24, 2009

The Honorable Rob Wittman  
1318 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Wittman:

On behalf of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, I am writing to request your assistance in securing funding in the upcoming reauthorization of the federal surface transportation program for the **Route 1 / Route 123 Interchange Project (Phase 1)** which has been designated by the Prince William Board of County Supervisors as a high priority for the County and for the entire region. We know that resources are limited and we have, therefore, worked very hard to narrow down our requests to those high priority projects for which we urgently need federal support in order to continue to address mobility issues in the County and in the region.

Routes 1 and 123 are major north-south routes parallel to I-95 and I-395 in Northern Virginia. Route 123 in Prince William County was realigned to its current at-grade terminus at Route 1 at approximately the same time I-95 was constructed through the County in the 1960's. Since then, Prince William County has faced significant growth having seen its population grow from 50,164 in 1960 to an estimated 391,621 in March 2009. Many commuters use Routes 1 and 123 as an alternative whenever there is a major incident on either I-95 or I-395, exacerbating congestion on these two routes, especially at their intersection in North Woodbridge. The expansion of two nearby military installations along Route 1, Fort Belvoir and Quantico due to 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission action will add approximately 22,000 more workers at these installations in 2011. Many of the new workers will utilize Route 1 for their commutes including traveling through the Route 1/123 intersection.

This project will alleviate congestion in the Route 1 corridor, allow for quick and efficient access for vehicles and buses to the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) commuter rail station in the southeast quadrant of the intersection, and allow for improved access to the Northern Virginia SciencePort now being developed by George Mason University in the Belmont Bay area east of the intersection. **For these reasons, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors is in support of the Route 1 / Route 123 Interchange Project.**

This project is in the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Six Year Improvement Program. VDOT has sponsored several opportunities for public comments several times since project inception in the 1990's. VDOT will be conducting a public hearing later in 2009 to solicit public input on Phase I, which is in compliance with Federal Highway Administration standards.

Phase I will widen Route 1 from Annapolis Way to Occoquan Road. Phase I will accommodate construction of the interchange in Phase II and provide for a bus pull-off for access to the VRE commuter rail station in the southeastern quadrant of the intersection. The total estimated cost of Phase I is estimated at \$60 million.

**In this iteration of the federal surface transportation program, we are requesting \$8,000,000 to complete the construction financing of Phase I of the project, which is less than 80% of the total estimated cost of Phase I. The Commonwealth of Virginia already has the remaining \$52 million in funds needed to complete the construction financing package for Phase I from federal and state sources including \$11.25 million from TEA-21, \$2.9 million in annual federal transportation appropriation funds, \$7.9 million in regional surface transportation program funds, \$17.2 million in State backed debt, and \$12.7 million in other State funds. When the currently committed funds and the requested funds are combined, this amount equals 100% of the total estimated cost of Phase I.**

Your continuing assistance with critical transportation needs in Prince William County has enabled us to address severe congestion issues. This and other high priority projects will enable us to continue to build on these successful efforts.

Thank you again for your continuing leadership on transportation issues in Prince William County and throughout our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Corey A. Stewart', with a stylized, flowing script.

Corey A. Stewart

Cc: Board of County Supervisors